

# **Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)**

## **Summary report**

### **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

#### **GEO-II Meeting**

**Wednesday, 14 December to Thursday, 15 December,  
2005**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Report (Version 1.0)**

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# **Report on GEO-II, 14-15 December 2005, Geneva, Switzerland**

This report mainly comments on the Draft Summary of the GEO-II meeting distributed by the GEO Secretariat on 9 January 2006. The Draft Summary gives a brief overview over the main points raised in the discussions and the decisions taken during the meeting. The documents mentioned in the Draft Summary should be available at the GEO web page, or can be obtained on request from the authors of this report.

For IAG, the meeting was attended by Markus Rothacher, Chair of the GGOS Steering Committee and IAG GEO principal, and Hans-Peter Plag, Vice-Chair of the GGOS Steering Committee, and IAG delegate to the GEO WGs on User Interface and on Tsunami Activities.

The GEO-II meeting was a plenary meeting with the main tasks to accept the rules and procedures of GEO, to agree on the structure of GEO in terms of Working Groups and Committees, and to accept the 2006 Work Plan and associated Budget. The dialog at these plenary meetings is rather formal and dominated by contributions from the member countries. However, many of the participating organizations are also actively contributing to the dialog.

The following are comments on the different topics as numbered in the draft summary:

## **1.7 Recognition of New Members and Agreement on New Participating Organizations**

It is interesting to note that GEO continues to attract new countries as members. Even more so, organizations increasingly strive to become Participating Organizations of GEO. The number of new organizations applying for that status was so large that GEO decided to set up rules for which organizations can participate. It was discussed to not include organizations if they are already represented through an umbrella organization. Therefore, looking back, it was a wise decision for IAG to join at an early stage, and thus not to be in a situation where the status would be difficult or impossible to get because of e.g. ICSU or IUGG being already Participating Organizations.

## **3.1 Presentation on the 2006 Work Plan and Budget**

Basically, the Work Plan was accepted as proposed. However, it is important to note that the Work Plan is considered a living document, which will be revised with detailed descriptions of the tasks, deliverables and timelines by 15 March 2006. In this respect, it is relevant that the GEO Committees and WG plan to meet in the time frame of 15 February to 3 March 2006 in order to provide input for this revision. It is essential that the IAG representatives to the GEO Committees and WG actively participate in this process.

## **5. Creation of GEO Committees and Working Groups**

As expected, GEO-II has replaced four of the five GEO Working Groups by Committees, with the main difference between Working Groups and Committees being that the latter ones are permanent. The only remaining Working Group is that on Tsunami Activities. There was considerable discussion whether this group should be broadened to a 'All Hazards' Committee, and the Tsunami Working Group was tasked to come up with a proposal. This issue should be discussed in the GGOS SC so that the IAG representatives to the Tsunami Activities could base their input to this question on a broader view.

## **6.1 GEO-Netcast.**

The GEO-Netcast is likely to be a rather central activity for data distribution in GEO, and is thus highly relevant for GGOS. There is a call for participation in GEO-Netcast, and GGOS should come

up with a decision how to relate to this initiative. In the call for participation distributed by the GEO Secretariat, the following points are emphasized: *As described in the 2006 Work Plan, GEO will study the "GEO-Netcast" concept beginning with an assessment of current data transfer and dissemination systems, and building on identified user requirements. Conceptually, GEO-Netcast will use existing commercial telecommunications infrastructure to allow for the broadcast of Earth observation data streams, for on-demand access to observation data upon user request, as well as for the collection of data from isolated sites and observatories. To ensure relevance to users, specific applications and benefits for each societal benefit area will be evaluated in the development of GEO-Netcast. GEO-Netcast will be developed by GEO Members and Participating Organizations, in the context of the GEO Committee on Architecture and Data, with support and coordination from the GEO Secretariat.*

## **6.2 Role of Earth Observations in Hazard Assessment and Disaster Management**

The role of GEO and the implementation of GEOSS are still a matter of intense discussion. The role of GEO as characterized under this agenda topic may be considered as a brief outline of what we can expect of GEO.

In the end, the actual task was delegated to several Committees and the WG, which again emphasizes the importance of participation in the work of these components of GEO.